



# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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**DATE:** September 2, 2003

**TO:** District Administrators

**FROM:** Mike Thompson  
Federal Policy Advisor  
Office of the State Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Required School Prayer Certification

As a condition of receiving funds under the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), local educational agencies (LEA) must certify that they have no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools, as detailed in the United States Department of Education (USED) guidance (<http://www.ed.gov/inits/religionandschools/guidance.html>). You may remember receiving a request for this certification in February 2003. We have received your signed certification, and our agency has submitted the required report to the USED by the April 15, 2003 deadline.

We are required to collect this certification annually, and are once again asking LEAs to submit this certification via the attached letter from State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. The signed certification must be returned to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by October 1, 2003. DPI is required to report to the USED annually by November 1 a list of those local educational agencies that have not filed the certification or against which complaints have been made to the DPI that the local educational agency does not comply with Section 9524 of the reauthorized ESEA.

Please fill out the enclosed certification letter from the state superintendent and return the **original** to DPI by **October 1, 2003**.

Any questions should be directed to Mike Thompson, Federal Policy Advisor, 608-266-3584, [michael.thompson@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:michael.thompson@dpi.state.wi.us), or Mary Jo Parman, Education Specialist, 608-266-2158, [maryjo.parman@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:maryjo.parman@dpi.state.wi.us).

Enclosure

c: CESA Administrators



# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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August 29, 2003

District Administrator:

As a condition of receiving funds under the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act, this signed certification must be returned to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by October 1, 2003.

As the school district administrator, please sign and date the certification below and return the **original** to: Mary Jo Parman, Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent

I hereby acknowledge I have received and read this letter and the United States Department of Education's (USED) school prayer guidance. I certify that no policy of the school district prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools, as detailed in the USED's school prayer guidance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School District Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
District